Sunbeams.

A tedious ture—Amateur.—*Bay City Bea.*

One of Fox's martyrs—The hen.—*Boston Courier.*

Bay City young ladies say cash-ma.—*Bay City Bea.*

Stove pipe time must be the dam-age.—*Bay City Bea.*

A comfortable journey—En-wrap-ture.—*Bay City Bea.*

Highway robbers always collect their money C. O. D.

A clothing store is naturally a wear house.—*Toledo American.*

A trial unknown to tramps—Indus-trial.—*Richmond (Va.) Baton.*

Boston girls of culture in conversing with old fars always pitch their voices.

It is strange that it should be necessary to have a carpet in every household.

Historians haven't left much of Napoleon III. but a French flat.—*Cin. Sat. Night.*

If a man wishes to sharpen his razor on the stove-hearth, it's his hone business.—*Whitehall Times.*

"Do you tumbler" softly asked the meek-eyed banana peel, as the fat man sat down to think.—*Boomerang.*

A man with a wooden back-bone doesn't mind being shot in his lumber vertebra.—*Richmond (Va.) Baton.*

Irish Epitaph—"Erected to the memory of John Phillips, accidentally shot as a mark of affection by his brother."

"I say, Jerry, why don't you water your horses?" "Water 'em? Why they never want water—they are both bays."—*N. Y. Express.*

A father with marriageable daughters, like a maiden with sensitive skin, often dreads the winter because its brings so many crops on his hands.

A prize-fighter has a second, we suppose, because when he gets knocks out of time, a second will be of great importance.—*Philadelphia Sunday Item.*

Quick lime will destroy the scent of a dead dog, and sometimes a quick climb up a tree is the easiest way to get away from the scent of a live one.—*Newtown Republican.*

If you want to employ a whitewasher, contract with him to whitewash the floors, the furniture, and everything but the ceiling. Then he may get some on the ceiling.—*Philadelphia Quiz.*

Teacher—Feminine of friar? First bright boy—Hasn't any. Teacher—Next. Second bright boy—Nun. Teacher—That's right. First bright boy indignantly ejaculates—That's just what I said.

"Have a place for everything, and everything in its place." Somehow or other this won't work; we have a big place for one waistc, but we'll be hanged if we can put it there. We haven't it!—*Evansville Argus.*

A fashion item says gentlemen's cards are larger than last year. Those that we have been playing with lately are the same old size, and just as hard as ever to give up both bowers and the ace.—*Syracuse Sunday Times.*

There are a great many succe sful train robbers out West, but some are caught and hung. If they would only come here and go to robbing trains drawn by ladies in a crowded assembly, they'd get rich in a week for her trains are always very large.—*Detroit Free.*

The New Haven authorities refuse to appoint other than married men with children as jurors, so that in case the present jury should die of old age before rendering a verdict their children can take up the case where they left off. This is re-lie-able.—*St. Louis Spirit.*

A tramp who begged assistance of Bob Miles, the other day, claiming to be once "held the boards" at the old National, proved to have been an assistant back of the stage who held the boards while the stage carpenter sawed them off the right length.—*Cin. Sat. Night.*

"Ain't this a little high?" asked a timid tenderfoot, of a Deadwood tavern-keeper who had charged him four dollars and a half for his dinner. "It may be a little high," replied the host, fumbling with the handle of a revolver in the cash drawer, "but I need the money." He got it.

A book was recently found in the Boston Library that had been missed for twenty years, and a peculiar coincidence was that there was lost to the same library on the same day the assistant librarian, who had been Missed for just twenty years. The librarian Mrs. her now.—*Texas Siftings.*

"What have you got there?" queried a temperance preacher to a young man who had a bottle wrapped in a paper. "Nothing," replied the young man. "You are telling lies," said the preacher. "You have Old Nick there." "Nay, but thou liest," replied the young man, "it's Old Tom that I've got here."—*Puck.*

"You are going to die, partner," said a man out in North Park the other day, to a reformed gambler from Leadville, who is on his last legs with consumption. "You will soon make your last ante and get froze out. By another spring you'll be out of the game." "Yes," said the repentant consumptive. "I find that in this game a hectic flush beats a bobtail flush every time."—*Boomerang.*

A gentleman was robbed of $10,000 in government bonds, in Cincinnati recently, while in the office of the bank clipping coupons. Now, there is no danger of our being robbed of our bonds in that manner. We go off all by ourselves and clip coupons for hours. In fact, we are so clandestine about it that no one suspects that we own bonds. Wouldn't really believe it if we told 'em so.—*Columbus (O.) Sunday Capital.*

"Yes," said Gus De Smith, "these saloons should be closed on Sunday. They doing more to break down the churches than everything else put together." "How is that?" "Well, now, for instance, that saloon-keeper on the corner of the avenue swindles my poor pastor out of fifteen cents every Sunday." "How does he do it?" "Well, you see, I stop in there on my way to church, and, as he won't credit me, I have to shell out the money I put in my pocket to drop in the contribution box. He robs me of those church funds regular. He ought to be ridden on a rail."—*Texas Siftings.*

ORIGIN OF FAMILIAR PHRASES.

The words, "In the midst of life we are in death," were first used in the burial service of the Episcopal church (in English), and the sentiment is expressed in the earlier service-books of the Greek and Roman churches. The sentence was probably adopted from one or the other of the older churches.

The origin of the phrase, "Robbing Peter to pay Paul," is thus given: In the time of Edward VI. of England, many of the lands of St. Peter, at Westminster, were seized by his majesty's ministers and courtiers; but, in order to reconcile the people to that robbery, they always allowed a portion of the lands to be appropriated toward the repairs of St. Paul's Church; hence the phrase, "Robbing Peter to pay Paul."

The saying, "He has an axe to grind," comes from essays from the desk of Poor Robert, the Scribe. In an article called "Who'll turn the Grindstones?" written after the manner of Ben Franklin's "Too Much for Your Whistle." The author was C. Miner. The essay was published at Doylestown, Pa., in 1815.

It introduces a boy who was induced by a clever fiction to turn the grindstone for another person to grind his axe, and is spoken of those who wish to appear generous while they are only serving their own selfish ends. He says:

"When I see a merchant over-polite to his customers, begging them to taste a little brandy, and throwing half his goods on the counter, thinks I, "That man has an axe to grind.'"

A man who appears to be thinking is said to be in a brown study. This should rather be a "brow study," from the German *braune*, a brow—*au*, in that dialect, having the sound of the *ou* in our word "our," as *Austerlitz* in English should be *Osterlitz*.

"Turning the tables," must come from the game of backgammon, formerly called "The tables," and which were said to be turned upon a player to whom the fortune of the game was adverse. The loser would often insist on changing the dice, boxes, men and table, in the hope of getting better luck. Just as we have seen whist-playing dowagers, when they have had bad cards or bad play, get up, turn their chairs round, and reasume their seats with a lively expectation.

The phrase "to die in the last ditch" was first employed, we believe, by William of Orange. "Do you not see your country is lost?" said the Duke of Buckingham, who had been sent to negotiate at Hague, when England and France leagued against Holland. "There is a sure way never to see it lost," replied William, "and that is—to die in the last ditch."

But a few are familiar with the oft quoted expression, "The sword of Damocles." A courtier of the elder Dionysius, tyrant of Syracuse, having extolled the happiness caused by the possession of wealth and power, Dionysius gave him a striking illustration of the real nature of such seeming happiness by placing him at a table full of delicacies and surrounded by all the insignia of royalty; but in the midst of this banquet, Damocles chancing to look upward, saw a sharp and naked sword suspended over his head by a single horse-hair. A sight so alarming instantly changed his views of the felicity of kings.—*Phila. Sat. Night.*

It is difficult to act a part long, for where truth is not at the bottom, nature will always be endeavoring to return; and will peep out and betray itself one time or another.

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